

EDITOR'S
NOTE

The Year in Review issue features a collection of staff-selected stories and photos that highlight the defining moments of the 2010-11 year. It is a chance for students, faculty and staff to look back on the highs and lows. The past year was both amazing and challenging for the University and The Daily Texan. Only a few weeks into the semester, the campus faced a tense day when Colton Tooley fired several rounds from an AK-47 into the air before dying by suicide.

Many of the items included in this issue feature the more somber moments, but also the instances of celebration that defined the campus, city and the nation. Less than a year after President Barack Obama made a visit to the UT campus, he announced the assassination of Osama bin Laden. The resignation of 30-year Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak brought students together in celebration. The UT community grappled with a devastating football loss, but the softball, baseball and swimming and diving teams gave Longhorns a reason to be proud.

In Life&Arts, our taste buds experienced a year of interesting Thirsty Thursday concoctions from the delicious favorites of Ernest Hemingway to the disgusting bacon-wrapped Meaty Mary. Our profiles of a neon sign maker and a Buddhist monk allowed our readers to go inside their minds and homes.

So we invite you to look through this issue and reflect on the past year, both the good and the bad.

Inside

In News:

The UT System receives deep budget cuts, eliminates some paid staff positions and throw out an adviser [page 7](#)

In Opinion:

The editorial staff looks back on the Simkins fiasco, research at UT and remembers Colton Tooley [page 4](#)

In Sports:

Changes come to the Longhorns after a disappointing football season [page 9](#)

In Life&Arts:

A look back at the taste of vaginas [page 12](#)

Sept. 30, 2010

Campus grapples with suicide



Derek Stout | Daily Texan file photo

A police support vehicle drives toward the Perry-Castañeda Library where there were reports of gunfire on campus on September 28, 2010.

Class papers show Tooley had fascination with US gun control policy

By Aziza Musa
Daily Texan Staff

UT campus shooter Colton Tooley's actions Tuesday morning — when he appeared on campus armed with an AK-47 — shocked friends at the University and former classmates at Crockett

High School in South Austin.

Tooley was known as an intelligent but reserved student. Biology freshman Deborah Alemu said the mug shot of the 19-year-old provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety, which was featured in several media outlets this week, was not an accurate portrayal of Tooley. She described him

as harmless and always helpful to other students.

Undeclared freshman Andres Chable said Tooley seemed to be a normal teenager.

"I always knew that he wasn't the most social guy, but what he lacked in social skills he made up

TOOLEY continues on [PAGE 2](#)

May 3, 2011

Journalism student reflects on Sept. 11, killing of bin Laden

By Matthew Stottlemire
Daily Texan Staff

In the days and weeks immediately following the morning of the Sept. 11 attacks, journalism graduate student Avery Holton said many of his friends joined the military. He said joining the military did not make sense for him, then a 20-year-old at UT on scholarship. He and a photographer decided to cover the state of New York three months later.

"New York seemed to be the symbolic front of the nation," Holton said.

They drove to Manhattan, speaking to people along the way about how they were affected. Even three months after the buildings fell, food vendors lined the barricades surrounding Ground Zero at the city's request to cover the smell of dead bodies, he said.

"It really hits you to know that you're standing next to a mass grave where so many people may never be identified, but where so many families were disrupted and unrav-

eled," he said.

On Sunday, President Barack Obama announced U.S. special forces killed the man they believed orchestrated the 9/11 attacks, Osama bin Laden, in a firefight.

Holton said as parts of the nation celebrated after receiving the news and others questioned celebrating the death of a human being, his initial reactions were of nostalgia and of closure — not elation.

"He's always been there, kind of like the ghost in the background nobody can get rid of," he said. "It lays to rest his ghost and brings forth more prominent issues."

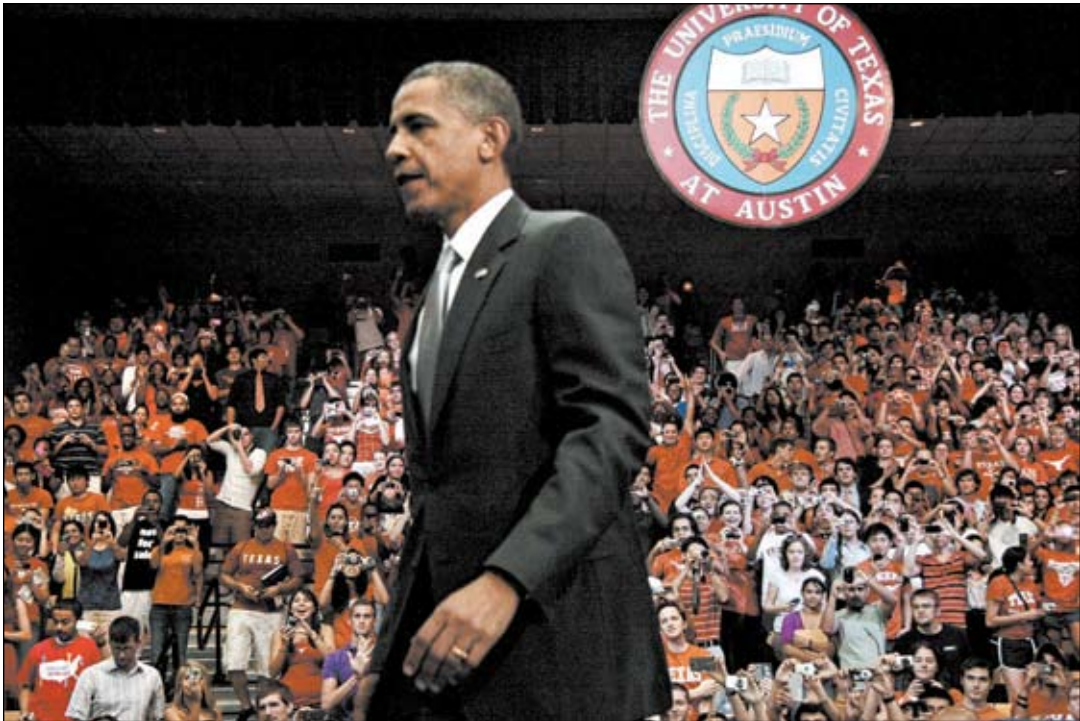
Holton said bin Laden's death re-emphasized lessons he learned about how as a nation to deal with the threat of terrorism.

"It's a constant threat that you can't let debilitate you, but you can't ignore either," he said.

He said while the killing of bin Laden marks a milestone, it by no means marks an end to the war on

OSAMA continues on [PAGE 2](#)

Aug. 10, 2010



Bruno Morlan | Daily Texan file photo

President Barack Obama walks off the stage at Gregory Gymnasium to begin shaking hands with students on August 9, 2010.

President calls on schools to lower costs

By Nolan Hicks
Daily Texan Staff

Greeted by a roaring crowd of 3,500 in Gregory Gymnasium, President Barack Obama challenged the United States to regain its global leadership in graduating students from college.

In an address that lasted more than 25 minutes, Obama also called on UT and other public universities to do more to control the spiraling cost of college tuition.

An average of 40 percent of American students receive a college degree. Meeting the president's goal would require that 60 percent of students obtain a degree.

"The single most important thing we can do is make sure that we have a world-class education system for everyone," Obama said. "It's a prerequisite for prosperity."

Noting that the average debt burden carried by

COSTS continues on [PAGE 2](#)

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Year in Review 2010-2011

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PERRY

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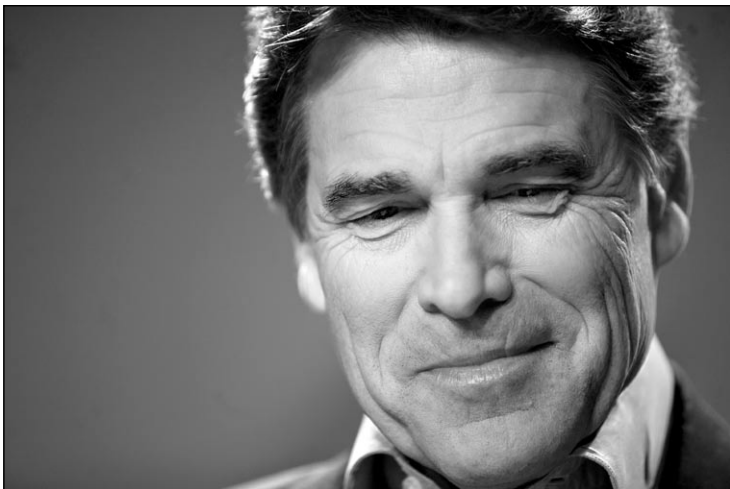
across the state, especially in suburban and rural counties.

“We challenge Texas to support Gov. Perry and others moving our state forward,” White said in his concession speech.

Cheers erupted throughout the room when White conceded the election to Perry, but the cheering stopped when White said that every public official, including federal officials, deserves respect. The only cheering that could be heard at Perry’s party for that line was from the speakers broadcasting the audio from White’s party.

The race between Perry and White appeared to be closing during the summer months — White had managed to cut Perry’s lead to an average of about 6 percent, with a Public Policy Polling poll showing the race tied.

However, the lead began to expand



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan file photo

in the fall, even as The Dallas Morning News and The Associated Press published stories highlighting connections between companies that received grants from state organizations and key Perry donors.

Instead, voters focused their attention and anger on Washington, D.C., said long-time state Rep. Jim McReynolds, D-Trinity County, a conservative Democrat from East Texas who lost by more than 15 percent.

“Washington is beating us. It’s a tide,” McReynolds said.

COSTS

continues from PAGE 1

students has increased by 25 percent in the past decade, he called on colleges nationwide to reduce expenses without reducing educational opportunities.

“No one is denied a chance at their dreams because they can’t afford it,” Obama said. “We are a better country than that.”

Obama spoke about administration efforts that he said were lowering the cost of education and how federalizing student loan programs

would save the government \$60 billion in subsidies to banks, savings he said would be passed onto college students in the form of lower interest rates and improved investments in community colleges.

“This year, we said enough is enough,” Obama said. “We simply could not afford to continue subsidizing special interests to the tune of billions of dollars a year at the expense of taxpayers and students.”

He also said his administration

was backing efforts to expand the size of tax credits for college education, as well as efforts to increase the payouts offered for education by the Federal Pell Grant Program, which was put in place to aid lower-income students attending college.

“Education is the economic issue of our time,” Obama said. “It’s an issue when the unemployment rate for folks who haven’t gone to college is double the rate for those who have gone to college.”

TOOLEY

continues from PAGE 1

for in brains,” said Chable, who attended public school with Tooley. “He was a great guy, and it is truly sad to know that he was pushed to the limit.”

UT officials identified Tooley as the gunman who fired several rounds from an assault rifle on 21st Street, near the University Catholic Center, shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday. Tooley then ran into the Perry-Castañeda Library before he took his own life, authorities said.

Class assignments written by Tooley and obtained by The Daily Texan show a fascination with the debate over gun control policy.

In Fall 2009, his first semester at UT, Tooley wrote a proposal for a research paper in an introductory rhetoric course that said argu-

ments between his parents over the issue only piqued his interest in the firearm debate.

“I’ve grown up in a household where my mother is absolutely appalled by guns, and my dad grew up with them out in rural Oklahoma and sees them as an extraordinary part of life,” Tooley wrote in the proposal.

The assignment required students to present an idea about a controversial, contemporary issue, and Tooley said he was most interested in researching public perception of gun control in the U.S. over the last 20 years, especially after the Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings. Tooley said he had read several books on the subject and watched films, including Michael Moore’s “Bowling for Columbine.”

OSAMA

continues from PAGE 1

terrorism or even to al-Qaida.

“It’s not an organization where you cut the head off and the snake dies,” Holton said.

Journalism professor Tracy Dahlby said he understands the celebrations, but to move forward every individual has to critically and soberly assess what happens next.

Dahlby lived in New York from 1986 until he came to UT in 2006. Dahlby said when he walked outside for the first time that September morning, he remembered an

acrid smell and the well-behaved and quietly resilient crowd walking across the Queensboro Bridge away from the Twin Towers.

Days after the attack, he remembers walking around Manhattan and seeing medical examiners in long aprons waiting for the bodies that did not come — they were destroyed in the rubble and fires.

“Being a New Yorker was like being part of an elite club,” Dahlby said. “It was really us together against them — whoever ‘them’ was.”

THE DAILY TEXAN

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FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE

Feb. 14, 2011



Samir Taha, who has two brothers in Egypt, chants with supporters, “Show us what democracy looks like. Egypt’s what democracy looks like!”

Egyptians rejoice after Mubarak resigns

By Molly Moore
Daily Texan Staff

Egyptian people took to the streets in celebration rather than protest on Friday morning, Feb. 11, when the historic announcement of 30-year President Hosni Mubarak’s resignation hit the airwaves.

Austin supporters of the movement hit the streets as well Friday evening in an event spearheaded by the International Socialist Organization and members of the Austin Arab community.

People gathered in front of the Capitol to demonstrate their soli-

darity with the Egyptian movement for democracy through chants, speeches and song.

“The Egyptian people accomplished something that no other country ever has. They showed that a nation of people could unite to bring about freedom and democracy,” said English and pre-med senior Sara Rady.

The Egyptian revolution is unique partly because of its lack of a single unifying ideology or leader for the millions of people who broke out in strike or protest for days at a time, said Roy Casagrande, an associate government professor at Austin Community College.

Although the military dissolved the Parliament on Sunday, they failed to retract the emergency law that is governing Egypt. The law grants the government the ability to extend police powers, suspend constitutional rights and practice censorship. Its abolishment remains one of the core demands of Egyptian protesters. The future therefore remains uncertain, he said.

“This is going to sound strange because I’m Egyptian, but this is not the happiest day of my life,” he said. “The happiest day of my life will be when Egypt puts in place a successful and stable democracy.”

This “good job, but the work’s not over yet” sentiment was echoed up and down the blocks of Congress as the mass of about 200 marched to the lively beat of both drums and a steady chanting of “Hey, hey! Ho, ho! The people made Mubarak go! Hey, Hey! Ho, ho! One down, lots more to go!”

March 23, 2011

Japanese students reflect on home nation’s disaster

By Allistair Pinsof
Daily Texan Staff

After the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11, sports management senior and Japanese native Itsuki Shibakiri wondered what would become of his home.

Over the past two weeks, he has only seen and heard the situation unfold through Japanese news publications and phone calls to his parents in Chiba, Japan. What he’s heard differs from Western news coverage, he said.

Shibakiri used to surf on the beaches of Chiba, located 24 miles east of Tokyo, where his parents still reside. He said the beaches are now barely recognizable after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake caused trembles within the city and the tsunami, as tall as a four-story building in some places, that hit the Pacific coast.

The damage in Chiba pales in comparison to that in Northern regions that were hit the hardest. Nevertheless, electricity blackouts, food shortages and questions about radiation have created an uneasy atmosphere in Shibakiri’s hometown of about 950,000 people.

“The areas that are supposed to have their electricity cut still have electricity, and the ones that are supposed to have electricity, don’t,” Shibakiri said. “It makes people confused. My mom said, ‘I don’t know how to prepare for this.’”

After three days of phone calls that wouldn’t get through, Shibakiri got in touch with his mother who con-

firmed his family and friends are safe.

“My dad got really frustrated because when he got back from work [in Tokyo] he had to pass 10 trains to walk back to our home,” Shibakiri said, adding it took his dad 12 hours to walk to his house in Chiba.

Tatsuya Imai, communications international graduate student, was initially introduced to recent events through a vague email from his father in Tokyo, which read: “Everything is fine.”


“I was like, ‘Everyone is fine? Of course, everyone should be fine.’ I didn’t get it,” Imai said.

Since the quake, both students have been relying on Japanese news sites for their information. Shibakiri said he also reads English news sources, but primarily reads MSN Japan, Yahoo! Japan and watches NHK-news. He said in contrast to Western coverage, Japanese journalists focus their efforts on keeping citizens calm.

Imai said Western coverage implies the entire island is in danger. He added that Westerners concerned about a specific region of Japan “don’t have as much information on how safe or dangerous the place is.”

Shibakiri said Japanese news coverage has its own problems of not being as hard on the Tokyo Electric Power Company, the private nuclear plant that was damaged, leading to radioactive leaks.

Shibakiri will be a part of their efforts around campus raising money for the American Red Cross.




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VIEWPOINT
September 29, 2010

Connecting during a crisis

Tuesday's events were undeniably tragic. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Austin Police Department, the UT Police Department, UT administration and all other officials who effectively handled the situation. Through text alerts, e-mails and press conferences, they established order and delivered information.

Students should also be thankful for another resource that helped the UT community get through the crisis: Twitter.

Since its inception and explosive popularity, many have questioned Twitter's value, considering it nothing more than an indulgent way for self-styled web divas to share what cereal they ate for breakfast or give their personal insights into national politics. Hopefully occasions such as this can convince skeptics of the legitimate utility of social media because during Tuesday's events, thousands of students, parents and friends relied on Twitter to instantly disseminate information that, at the time, they considered life-saving.

Thousands of students learned about the event via Twitter, shared it on Facebook and then used social media to stay informed throughout the morning. The initial news and subsequent updates instructed those on campus about the safest course of action, and these instructions were immediately re-tweeted to thousands. With so much uncertainty Tuesday morning, clear instructions from University officials were vital, whether they came via e-mail, text message or Twitter.

In addition to enabling safety precautions, social media also allowed those on campus to update loved ones as to their whereabouts. In a crisis, a status update can immediately inform thousands of your safety and reassure you of others' safety as well. New media also helped cultivate a sense of community that is rare on a university of this size. Throughout the day we received messages, tweets and texts making sure we were OK, often from people



Erika Rich | Daily Texan Staff

Public relations junior Ashley Peña takes pictures with her web cam outside the Perry Castañeda Library around noon. Peña said that even though the shooting was shocking, it was an important event to document.

we had not spoken to in years. This helped produce a sense of solidarity and comfort whose value cannot be underestimated in a crisis.

However, social media can be equally harmful when used improperly. Panic and uncertainty can make one susceptible to rumors and misinformation, and the immediacy of so-

cial media can amplify those uncertainties, making them appear credible. In a crisis, users must be cautious not to unwittingly use social media as an outlet to fuel confusion.

Some also opted to use social media to politicize the shooting or make tasteless "jokes." Within hours of the shooting, the chair

of the Tarrant County Republican Party, Stephanie Klick, idiotically tweeted that it was "[t]oo bad for UT students that Conceal Carry on Campus did not pass during the last legislative session." Obviously this event will reignite discussions about guns on campus, but making overtly political statements in the

heat of a crisis is wildly inappropriate and tasteless.

Though some abused social media, it was generally an incredibly useful tool throughout all stages of the crisis. From the initial warning to the "all clear," social media assisted in the dissemination of timely information and helped minimize

mass chaos and confusion.

We commend the University's swift and tactful response to the situation, and we look forward to seeing UT develop even more tools for social media, especially those that impact campus safety.

— *The Daily Texan Editorial Board*

April 1, 2011

Silicon Valley 2.0

After a recent visit to California, Gov. Rick Perry came back to Texas an enlightened man.

While meeting with deans from Stanford University's business and engineering schools, Perry had something of an epiphany: UT can help make Austin the next Silicon Valley.

"I can tell you there's not been anything that I have done in my public life that I found more intriguing and more exciting than the potential of that becoming a reality," Perry told the Austin American-Statesman on Thursday. "This has pumped me up as much as anything."

There is one problem with Perry's vision, however: Silicon Valley 2.0 would require research. Lots and lots of research.

This is a striking development from the recent handwringing over the excess of research at UT and the supposed dearth of teaching. It was only a few weeks ago that the Board of Regents hired a new special adviser and paid him an eye-popping, recession-defying salary of \$200,000 to have him suggest that UT abandon its focus on academic research.

The adviser, Rick O'Donnell, outraged alumni everywhere and has since been "reassigned," but for a moment there, it looked as though government bureaucrats wanted to turn UT into a degree factory.

Instead of addressing the issues brought up by O'Donnell's appointment, Perry is distancing himself from research-gate, calling the whole fiasco a "distraction."

O'Donnell's appointment was more than a distraction — it was a profoundly disturbing development that showed a tremendous lack of

judgment on behalf of the Board. Perry should, at the absolute least, acknowledge the philosophical mistakes of the Board of Regents.

We're fairly certain the deans at Stanford, who clearly don't have a problem with tenured faculty teaching and conducting research, would do as much.

Perhaps even more frustrating, Perry is brushing off the concerns of President William Powers Jr. and scores of perturbed alumni.

"I'm not going to get in a rock-throwing contest with Bill Powers or the University of Texas Ex-Students' Association," Perry told the Statesman. "It's just not constructive."

Rock-throwing contests aside, Perry absolutely does need to engage with Powers and address the concerns of alumni. If Perry has grand visions for UT, he needs to make sure they align with the visions of those who are the most invested in the academic quality of the University.

We would go further and suggest that Perry explicitly address how he views the role of research at UT as a whole. We have a feeling he's not as keen on research that's not as financially lucrative.

In his statements about biotechnology, Perry acknowledges the potential of research — albeit a very specific, capital-driven form — to benefit the University as well as the city. We hope he realizes the importance of all research fields at UT, even those fields which are not obvious financial boons. Silicon Valley was a locus of innovation because it operated within a culture of intellectual rigor and curiosity, a culture that UT should strive to maintain.

— *The Daily Texan Editorial Board*

June 17, 2010

Public should push for name change at Simkins open forum

On Tuesday, University administrators and student representatives will be holding the first of two open forums to hear the public's thoughts on the renaming of Simkins Hall Dormitory.

The possible renaming of Simkins Hall, whose namesake, William Stewart Simkins, taught at the School of Law for 30 years and organized the Ku Klux Klan in Florida after the Civil War, has become a hot-button issue on campus in recent weeks.

On a base level, it doesn't seem like that difficult of a decision.

William Stewart Simkins was, by all accounts, a deplorable human being. Some people may say he was only playing into the sentiment of the time period in which he lived. Regardless, any person that participates, much less organizes, a group that advocates for the murder of individuals on the basis of race is horrible, no matter what era he or she lived in.

Simkins' transgressions became a topic of discussion recently as a result of an article posted in the Social Science Research Network by Tom Russell, a former UT law professor.

"Simkins engaged in illegal, terrorist behavior during Reconstruction and doesn't merit having a building carrying his name," Russell told the Austin American-Statesman. "It's particularly true in view of the fact that he was a law professor."

The dormitory opened 55 years

ago, and it was then that administrators overlooked Simkins' past. It's unfortunate that this oversight went more than half a century without being addressed, but because it took so long to review the practices of the dormitory's namesake, some feel that the name should stay.

William Stewart Simkins' presence on campus is an unfortunate part of our history, but part of it nonetheless. By simply painting over

ride the fact that William Randolph Hearst himself is widely considered one of the fathers of "yellow journalism" and was a Nazi sympathizer in the 1930s.

By renaming the building, the University would certainly set a significant precedent, but that's perhaps why the change is necessary. The University of Texas is not the same place today that it was in the 1950s, and as such, equipped with

“*Simkins engaged in illegal, terrorist behavior during Reconstruction and doesn't merit having a building carrying his name.*”

— Tom Russell, Former UT law professor

the ignorance UT administrators displayed more than half a century ago, we may be rewriting history.

In addition, if the University is going to make a point of changing the name of this structure because of the unsavory character of its namesake, they're likely going to have a laundry list of other buildings and monuments to rename as well. Even the Texas Student Media building, in which The Daily Texan is located, changed its name to the William Randolph Hearst building in 2008. The Hearst foundation may have made a valuable donation to the school, but that doesn't over-

the knowledge we now have about who Simkins was as a person, it's appropriate to strip him of the honor of having a dormitory named after him.

To draw an analogy, if a person wins a gold medal in the 100-meter dash and tests positive for a performance-enhancing substance after being awarded their medal, that person still has his or her prize revoked. That's because the person earned the distinction on false pretenses, and as such, his or her character and integrity are compromised. In light of this, he or she is no longer deserving of the medal.

It would be most fitting, both practically and poetically, to rename the dormitory after Ervin S. Perry, the first African-American to be appointed as a professor at UT, or even Julius Whittier, the first player to break the color barrier on the UT football team. But, most importantly, regardless of who the dormitory is named after, officials should place a plaque in the entrance of the residence hall to explain its history and, ultimately, its justified renaming.

If individuals are worried that officials would be sweeping this unfortunate part of our history under the rug by renaming the dorm, I'd say that by forming a committee to debate the re-naming of the dormitory in the first place, the University has already given the name behind the Simkins dormitory more publicity than any other residence hall on campus — and it only holds 200 male students.

I'd bet only a handful of students on campus could tell me who Beauford H. Jester was, much less his important individual accomplishments, and he has one of the largest residence halls in North America named after him.

The meeting on Tuesday will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Main Building in room 212. The second meeting will be held Wednesday, June 28, from noon to 2 p.m. in the San Jacinto Hall multipurpose room.

— *The Daily Texan Editorial Board*

LEGALESE

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April 4, 2011

House passes state budget that could cut school funds

By Melissa Ayala
Daily Texan Staff

House members gathered under the Capitol dome for more than 15 hours Friday and again Sunday to hash out details of the 2012-13 biennium budget, which passed in a 98-49 vote mostly along party lines.

Lawmakers piled on more than 200 amendments to House Bill 1 — several of which attempted to ease the hit to universities and financial aid.

The Senate will vote on their budget version in the coming weeks. Both budgets will then go into a joint committee where members from both chambers will work on one final version.

Outside the Capitol, public interest groups including Texas Impact protesters held a daylong vigil Friday to mourn the “death of state services.”

“Teachers across the state, who equipped themselves to serve the children of the state of Texas are being forced out of the position they love and put on the unemployment line,” said Louis Malfaro, secretary-treasurer of the Texas American Federation of Teachers. “So, today we mourn the death of Texas education.”

Legislators proposed about 73 amendments dealing with education, at least 11 of which attempt to increase financial aid funding.

Lawmakers did not pass any amendments to support TEXAS Grant funding. The original House budget proposes cutting TEXAS grants in half — or by nearly 35,900 from 2011 to 2012 — which would eliminate their availability for incoming students. Several lawmakers spoke passionately about restoring those funds.

Feb. 20, 2011

State’s Latino, Asian-American population not reflected at UT

By Melissa Ayala
Daily Texan Staff

Census data released last week shows dramatic growth in Hispanic and Asian populations in Texas, but state trends do not necessarily reflect the demographics of UT students.

According to the 2010 Census, 37.6 percent — about 9.5 million — of Texans have Hispanic or Latino origin, while only 19.4 percent — nearly 7,500 — of UT undergraduate students are Hispanic.

“When the data came out for racial and ethnic change last week, it showed dramatic diversification of the Texas population,” said Steve Murdock, former census director and Rice University sociology professor. “Enrollment levels [for minorities] are not where they should be. Non-Anglo populations have fewer resources and as a result they are less likely to go to college. It’s one of the major challenges for Tex-

as and one of the most important things for us to do.”

Jacqueline Angel, a public affairs and sociology professor, said the UT Hispanic population has not grown as fast as the state because of high high-school dropout rates, the cost of higher education and socioeconomic status.

“Hispanic enrollments in higher education may not be projected to increase proportionally to growth [in Texas],” Angel said. “It’s going to be important to address the problem of the lack of Hispanic individuals getting baccalaureate and post-graduate degrees. We need to make sure we are mirroring the rest of the state.”

Brandon Hunter, co-director of UT’s Latino Leadership Council, said the University could help increase the Hispanic student population by recruiting more aggressively, providing bilingual programs for parents and making tuition more affordable.

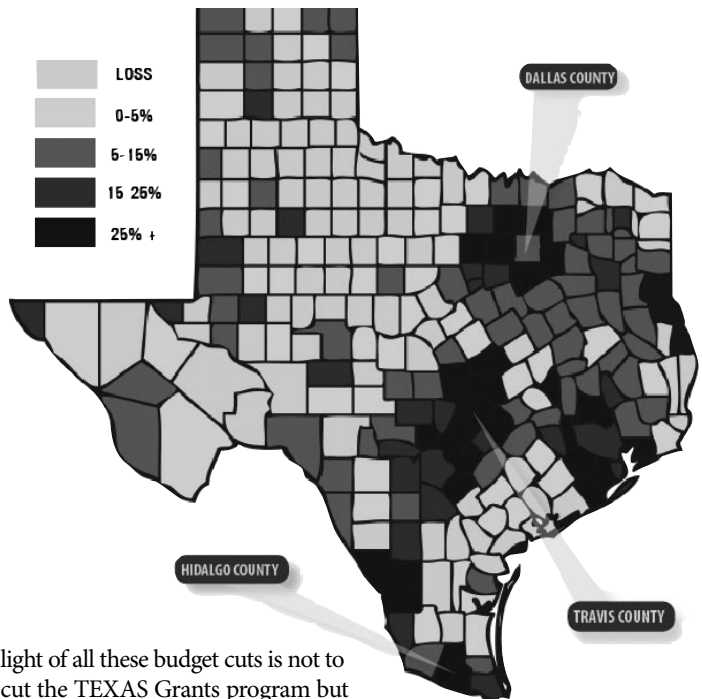
“I think they’re pretty evident of the University’s not-so-great job of increasing diversity,” Hunter said. “I think it’s been a general failure but also a lack of prioritization of diversity.”

Angel said there are ways to increase the number of minority students such as adding additional minority faculty.

“When you have faculty members who understand your background, it really shows students how education pays off,” she said. “We need to work very hard at this in light of the staggering trends that we’re seeing.”

Murdock said legislators could also help diversification by maintaining TEXAS Grants and need-based financial aid in the 2012-13 biennium budget.

“The thing we can do right now in



light of all these budget cuts is not to cut the TEXAS Grants program but in fact to look at it and put it at the level it was proposed to be in the early 2000s,” he said.

Unlike the Hispanic student population, the Asian undergraduate student population of UT — 17.9 percent including international students — surpasses the census estimates of Asian Americans making up 3.8

percent of the Texas population, or approximately 965,000 people. Madeline Hsu, director of the Center for Asian American Studies said Asian immigration into the U.S. since 1865 has included many middle class families with parents who already have college degrees.

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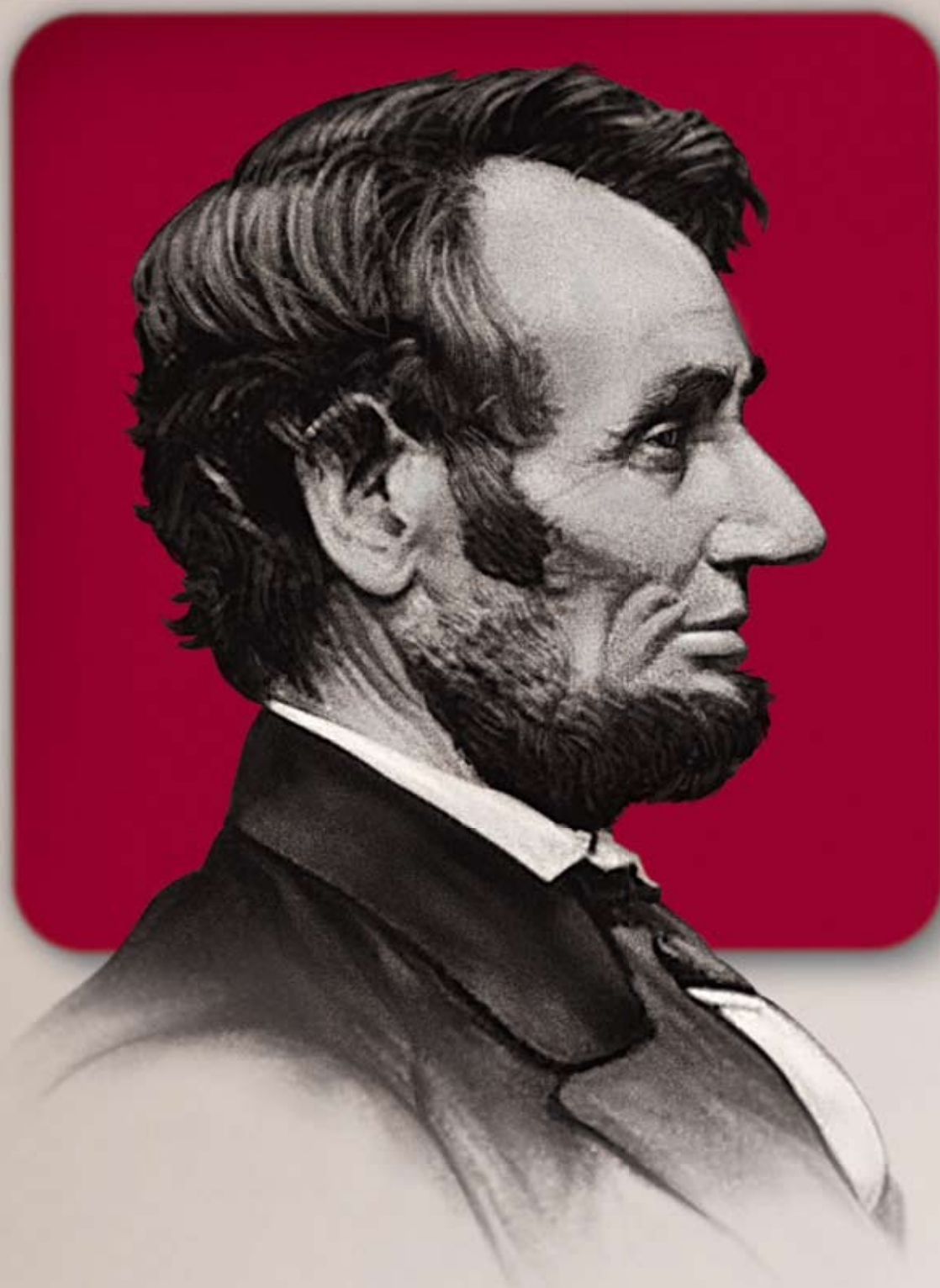
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October 12, 2010

A closer look at income

By Collin Eaton
Daily Texan Staff

The University faces countless hardships in the current economy — from budget cuts to hiring freezes and limiting pay increases — but intractable equity issues still linger in UT's top-heavy salary payout.

UT's core budget devotes half of its \$758 million in salary money to the top 25 percent of its employees, whose pay ranges from \$75,000 to \$510,000. The top 300 employees, including chief administrators and faculty, earned a combined \$67 million this year — the same amount earned by the 2,500 employees at the lowest end of the pay scale.

UT staff members said many are taking on more work as budget cuts eliminate positions across campus and that private companies offer tempting, similar jobs with higher pay for skilled workers. In the next legislative session, lawmakers will consider state leadership's call for all state agencies, including UT — the largest employer in Austin — to reduce their budgets by 10 percent in the 2012-13 biennium.

Anwar Sounny-Slitine, a geography graduate student and a senior desktop support specialist, said even though his salary is well below his market value, he believes in the mission of the University and loves his job. Sounny-Slitine said he has seen the University from multiple angles after working several technology maintenance jobs and has learned that UT operates like a three-legged stool. Faculty, students and staff serve essential purposes, he said.

"We need all three legs in order for [the University] to stand, but the leg for staff is something that has been neglected," Sounny-Slitine said.

He said staff members tend to settle for less compensation because they like working for UT, but after some time they build experience and skills, which can lead to better-paying jobs in the state and in the private market. According to Pay Scale, an organization that gathers salary information across the country, information technology specialists' salaries range from

UT employees' salaries

Note: Salaries include bonuses.



Mack Brown
Football Coach
\$5.1 million



William Powers Jr.
UT President
\$511,491



Kevin Hegarty
Vice President &
Chief Financial
Officer
\$369,925



Dean Neikirk
Professor,
Computer/Electrical
Engineering
\$145,461



Jennifer Ebbele
Associate Professor,
Classics
\$80,000



Ben Bond
Training Specialist
\$48,360



M. Anwar Sounny-Slitine
Senior Desktop
Support Specialist
\$46,128



Daniel Berra
Library Assistant
\$27,144

\$46,000 to \$76,000 at technology service companies. At universities, the salary for the same positions range from \$39,000 to \$64,000.

"In the current economy, people are hanging onto their jobs, but in the past, it's been a problem for some [University] positions because people have said, 'I can't deny making 20 or 30 percent more, I have to move on,'" he said.

UT chief financial officer Kevin Hegarty said the University would like to increase salaries and benefits, but the budget is currently too tight. He said the administration continues to evaluate its position in the market

and that the current economic conditions indicate that other institutions are not increasing their competitive energy toward compensation.

Like any institution with thousands of employees, salary sizes vary across departments and professions. Most salaries are paid for through the core academic budget, but head football coach Mack Brown's \$5.1 million guaranteed salary comes from the intercollegiate athletic department budget.

In the case of faculty, rank affects pay because universities distribute salaries competitively to retain their top faculty, said Faculty Council

chairman Dean Neikirk, an electrical engineering professor.

At UT, full professors earn an average of \$131,000, while assistant and associate professors earn an average of \$85,000. In Neikirk's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the average pay for faculty is \$96,000. In the Department of Classics, the average pay for faculty is \$78,000.

For other staff members at the University, budget cuts can mean larger workloads for the same amount of pay.

— Additional reporting by
Andrew Kreighbaum

April 20, 2011

Regents' adviser loses job after challenging research

By Matthew Stottlemire
Daily Texan Staff

The UT System and a controversial adviser severed ties Tuesday amid an ongoing debate over the roles of teaching and research at the state's public universities.

"Rick O'Donnell is no longer employed by the UT System, effective immediately," said system spokesman Anthony de Bruyn. He declined to comment further and could not confirm if O'Donnell was terminated or resigned.

Board of Regents chairman Gene Powell and Francie Frederick, general counsel to the Board of Regents, hired O'Donnell in February as a special adviser who reported directly to the board at a \$200,000 annual salary. The system hired O'Donnell to advise two regent task forces formed this year — one to explore blended and online learning and another on excellence and productivity.

"While it was not my choice to depart at this time, I am hopeful that the commitment to improving the productivity of the UT System will continue for the sake of taxpayers and the sake of students," O'Donnell said in a statement released Tuesday.

O'Donnell said in a letter to Regent Wallace Hall Jr. on Monday that criticism of a paper he wrote questioning the value of research at public universities and the controversy surrounding his hire deflected debate about the concerns he wished to raise and the task forces' important goals.

After O'Donnell's hiring, alumni, lawmakers and University officials raised concerns about his work and writings, including the policy paper he wrote for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank. The 2008 paper that he wrote before the system hired him con-

tained incorrectly attributed quotes and improper footnotes, according to the Houston Chronicle. The foundation took responsibility for the mistakes and attributed them to errors in compiling multiple drafts.

"Some have attacked white papers I wrote, which were intended to spur a dialogue on how to measure the return of taxpayer dollars invested in research," O'Donnell wrote in the letter. "As we've previously discussed, the role of a think tank white paper is to spur debate, while the role of a leader in government is to act."

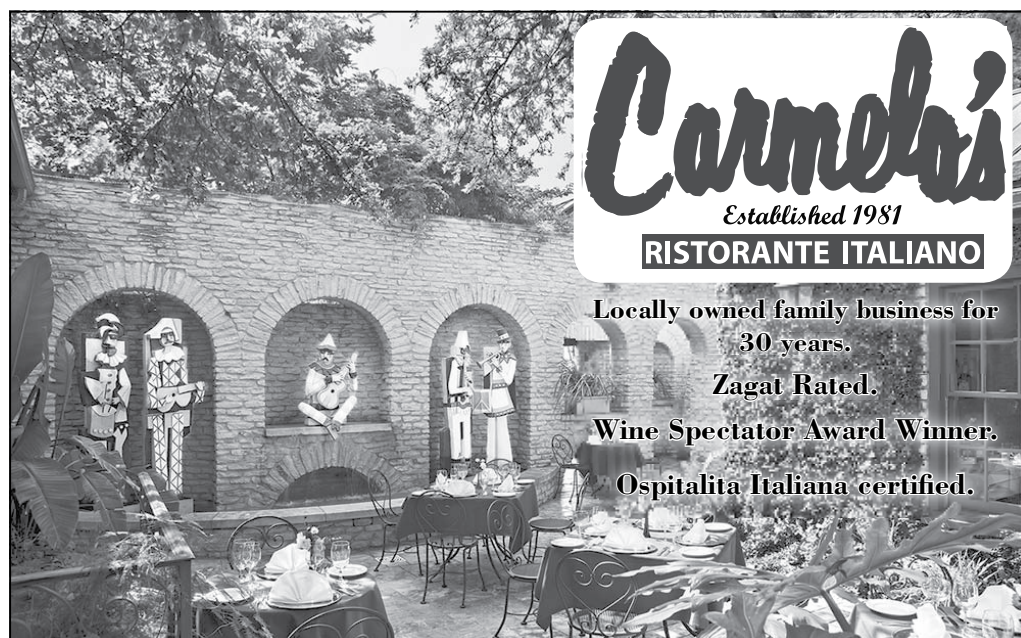
After hearing outside concerns, the system shortened O'Donnell's employment to end on Aug. 31 and reassigned him to report to Scott Kelley, executive vice chancellor for business affairs. O'Donnell wrote that he requested public information on the regents' behalf to analyze how the University spends tuition and public money, but the system did not release it.

"The release of such data was resisted at the highest levels of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas System," he wrote. "Rather than release these data, we were met with what some have called a well-orchestrated public relations campaign of breathless alarms, much like shouting fire in a crowded theater."

The task force on productivity is drafting and gathering data on a department-by-department basis on how UT System campuses spend this money, according to a joint statement released by UT-Austin and the UT System. According to the statement, system Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, the executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, the Board executives and each of the nine university presidents will analyze and review the data before the system and University release it to the entire Board.



Rick O'Donnell
Former adviser to
UT Board of Regents



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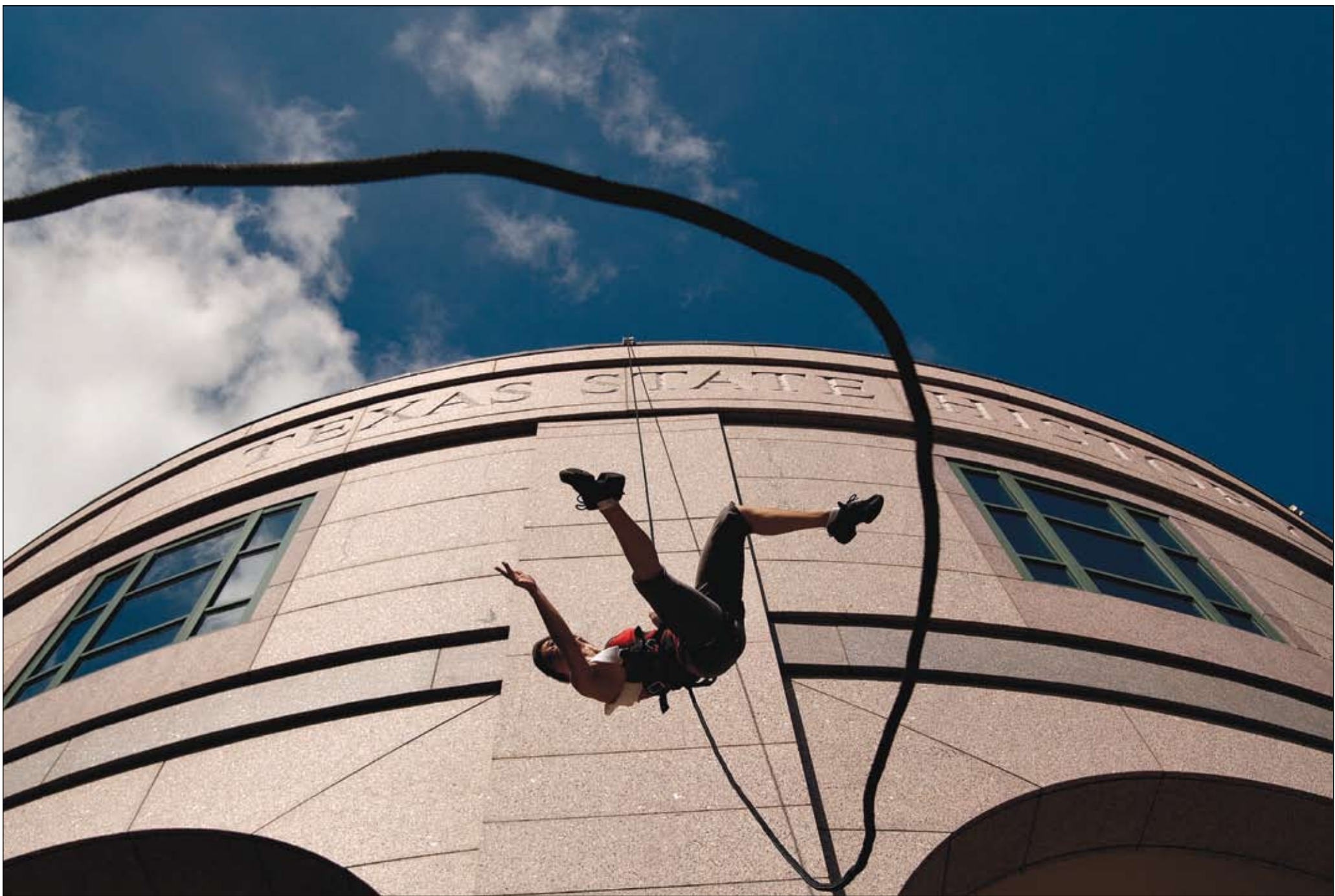
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YEAR in review



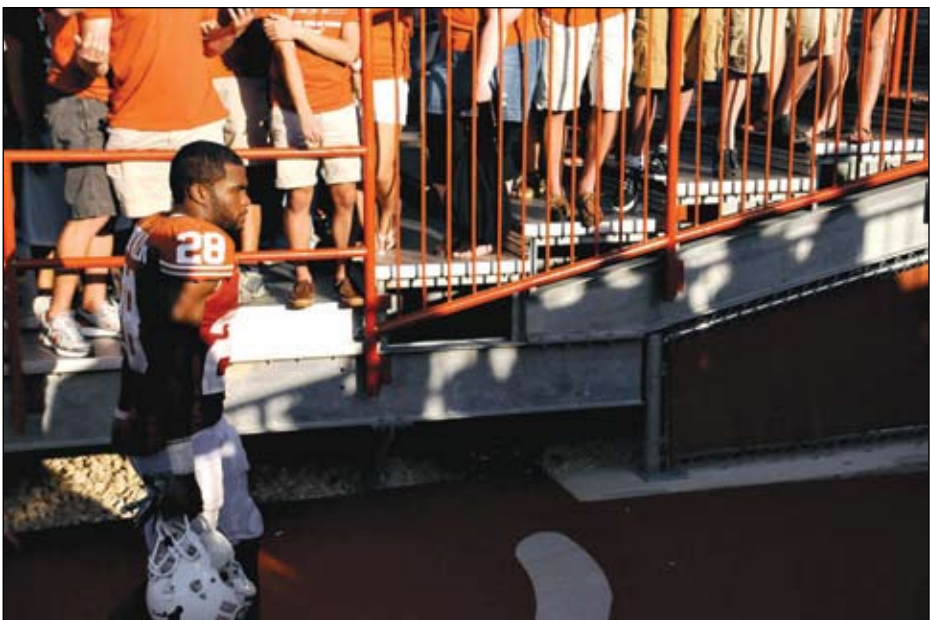
Andrew Torrey | Daily Texan Staff

The Standing Rock team from North Dakota walks the fire line to check for any remaining small fires.



Jono Foley | Daily Texan file photo

Maya Kaough, member of the Blue Lapis Light Aerial Dance Company practices for a special exhibition at the Bob Bullock Museum on Thursday morning. The company will be performing "Limitless" on the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum on Friday, October 29th at 7 p.m.



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan file photo

Running back Fozzy Whittaker walks off the field after another football loss last semester. The Longhorns stumbled to a 5-7 record, their worst record in the Mack Brown era.



Sucharit Katyal carries an indian harmonium to safety from a vehicle buried beneath branches in his driveway while Ardan Kumar offers cover from tropical storm Hermine on Harris Park Ave, one block north of the UT campus on Sept. 7, 2010.

Tamir Kalifa
Daily Texan
file photo



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan file photo

Dara Allen-Trainer and Scot Trainer grasp a sign critical of British Petroleum during a vigil organized by MoveOn.org, a national political action committee on June 8, 2010. More than 50 concerned citizens stood outside the Austin BP office to protest the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that continues to leak thousands of gallons of crude oil into the waters.



Peyton McGee | Daily Texan file photo

David Campos carries a mirror out of his home in northwest Laredo on July 12, 2010 after flood waters from the Rio Grande began to recede revealing significant damage to his house.

FOOTBALL
DECEMBER 7, 2010

Mack Brown confirms the resignations of UT coaches

By Will Anderson
Daily Texan Staff

Head coach Mack Brown put an end to speculation Monday with an e-mailed statement announcing the resignation of embattled offensive coordinator Greg Davis and two other Texas coaches.

Davis came to Texas with Brown in 1998 and was part of the school's record nine consecutive 10-win seasons from 2001 to 2009. He drew criticism this year for running an offense that finished No. 59 in the country in total yardage, good enough for a spot between Central Florida and Duke. Texas went 5-7, its only losing season under Brown and first since 1997, and will not appear in the postseason.

Offensive line coach Mac McWhorter and defensive line coach Mike Tolleson also announced their retirements from coaching.

McWhorter produced five current NFL players and two collegiate All-Americans during his nine years

in Austin.

Tolleson

coached

current

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Roy Mill-

er, plus

four oth-

ers, in his

13 years at

Texas.



Greg Davis

Offensive coordinator

"They are not only great coaches but men who handled themselves with tremendous integrity, class and dignity on and off the field during their time here," Brown said. "I want to say, 'Thank you,' and wish them well, because they will be missed."

The outgoing coaches have experienced the highest of highs and lowest of lows while at Texas, from the BCS National Championship in 2005 to this year's seven-loss season.

Davis was especially successful, as he led some of the most prolific offenses in school history. In 2005, the Texas offense scored a then-record 652 points in a single season, and he was given the Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant coach.

NOVEMBER 29, 2010



Corey Leamon | Daily Texan file photo

The Longhorns walk off the field at Darrel K Royal Memorial Stadium following their loss to Texas A&M in the final game of last season. Texas finished 5-7 (2-6 Big 12) on the year.

Changes coming for Texas under Mack Brown

By Laken Litman
Daily Texan Staff

Mack Brown's worst season at Texas is finally over. So now what?

"What I will do is take my time and evaluate the coaches and the staff and each player and everything that we're doing," said Brown, who hasn't experienced a losing season since going 1-10 at North Carolina in 1989. "At that time, I'll be able to make the conscious decision on what's best for the program."

It's humorous to think that Texas was ranked as the preseason No. 4 team, plastered on the cover of Sports Illustrated with a headline that read, "The Longhorns have the defense to win it all."

Is that the same defense that allowed a record 223 yards rushing to Texas A&M running back Cyrus Gray and failed to make stops to

reverse the momentum Thursday night in a must-win game?

Sure is.

Last season, defensive coordinator Will Muschamp had the nation's No. 1 rush defense that held opponents to 72 yards per game. This year, essentially the same unit allowed nearly twice that.

"It's disappointing," Brown said. "This year was not our standard at all."

Back in August, Brown told his defense that forcing turnovers would be key in getting good field position, as the offense needed to piggy-back off the defense until it got comfortable. But the offense never got into a flow, and the defense only caused 18 turnovers, not even half of the 37 forced last year.

Another failure was the balanced offensive attack Brown was hoping to implement, a smashmouth downhill running scheme and a nimble passing game that would

blindsides defenses.

Those things never happened because Texas usually got behind ear-

“

It was an up and down season. But things are looking up.

— Sam Acho,
Senior defensive end

”

ly and had to rack up the passing yards in an attempt to catch up. The only game this entire season when Texas was balanced like Brown en-

visioned was against Florida Atlantic in the second-to-last game of the year, when the Longhorns had 259 yards rushing and 263 passing.

"We were inconsistent," Brown said. "That was the theme."

Quarterback Garrett Gilbert showed flashes of adequacy, if not brilliance, but also mediocrity. He threw for 2,744 yards but he also threw 17 interceptions (Colt McCoy had 18 his sophomore year).

Gilbert also struggled on third-down situations, especially in the red zone, forcing Texas to settle for field goals. The Longhorns only scored touchdowns in the red zone 44 percent of the time — the fifth worst percentage in the country.

"Turnovers and explosive plays are the key to any ball game," said offensive coordinator Greg Davis. "The most important thing for an offense to do has nothing to do with rushing or passing or anything else. It is to score points. We fell far

below what we have become accustomed to in scoring points. That is the most disappointing thing."

But the offense just didn't have any explosive playmakers. The receivers had no chemistry with Gilbert, and the running backs were battered and unhealthy from the start (not that that really mattered as the talent level was inadequate anyway).

Not tailback rushed for more than 600 yards this season, and only Cody Johnson ran for over 100 in a game (124 against FAU and 107 against A&M). And it didn't help that rare was the game when the offensive line opened up holes.

There's a lot on Brown's plate heading into the offseason, but with the nasty taste of losing lingering in his mouth, he's determined to get it fixed.

"It was an up and down season," said senior defensive end Sam Acho. "But things are looking up." Stay tuned, Texas fans.

SOCCER
OCTOBER 29, 2010Senior forward
Alisha Ortiz
maneuvers
through the
midfield during
the Longhorns'
game against
USC.Jeff Heimsath
Daily Texan file
photo

Seniors' careers are coming to a close

By Jon Parrett
Daily Texan Staff

For a senior, it can be a tough thing realizing the end is near. Four years of hard work, success and adversity. Four years that define your life.

ON THE WEB:
Read the rest of the story at

bit.ly/jPGjew

The end is here for five Texas seniors, as the Longhorns host No. 6 Texas A&M in their final home game of the season tonight. Erica Campanelli, Kirsten Birkhold, Kate Nicholson, Al-

isha Ortiz and Kate Incerto will be honored before the game, with their families joining them on the field.

You would think that with their soccer careers at Texas coming to a close, the seniors might be busy planning for their own futures, leaving little time to interact with each other. But that's not the case for Campanelli, Birkhold, Nicholson and Ortiz — for the past two years, the four have lived with each other in a house off-campus.

"It's a fun environment, and we're all best friends," Campanelli said. "When you're bored, you can always just walk down the

hall and there's normally someone home to keep you entertained."

Head coach Chris Petrucelli thinks that living together helps the players when they're on the field.

"Those are the kind of things that typically happen when players spend a lot of time together," Petrucelli said. "It's something we don't [exactly encourage], but it tends to happen to different classes."

Playing with her friends challenges Nicholson to play hard.

"I want to work hard for all of my teammates, but especially when it's my closest friends," she said. "There's an extra bit of 'umph' that goes into it when I'm playing with them."

VOLLEYBALL
JANUARY 18, 2011

Texas begins to look toward next year

By Austin Laymance
Daily Texan Staff

With 2010 firmly in the rearview, it may be too early for the Longhorns to shake off their crushing exit from the Final Four, but one thing is for certain — Texas has plenty to look forward to in 2011.

Jerritt Elliott's young team battled adversity during its run to the Final Four, and his talented squad returns seven players who often started for the Longhorns in 2010. Elliott will rely on middle blocker Rachael Adams and outside hitter Amber Roberson as the two roommates will return to lead the Longhorn team this fall.

Both Roberson and Adams will assume the leadership position left by the departing senior class, but the two juniors carefully watched this season's seniors and are confident they can pick up where veterans Juliann Faucette and Jen Doris left off.

"Looking at them, you have to learn how to take control of a team at a certain time when there's young players and they're going to be looking up to you," Roberson said. "You have to be the one to step up to that and be the one they can count on rather than you counting on them."

Setter Michelle Kocher and libero Sydney Yogi will also be seniors in 2011 and will



Michael Baldon | Daily Texan file photo

Jen Doris prepares to serve during Texas' loss to Penn State in December's national semifinal.

FORWARD continues on PAGE 10

VOLLEYBALL
JANUARY 28, 2011Return of fifth-year senior
welcome addition to teamBy Alexandra Carreno
Daily Texan Staff

Kristen Nash has some unfinished business with the Longhorns.

For the fifth-year senior, being given a second chance to return to Texas has great meaning.

"I'm just doing whatever I can to help the team," Nash said.

After commencement last May, Nash retired her basketball shoes for the books at 23 years old and never thought about rejoining the squad.

She longed for the experience of being a "regular student" and worked to remain focused on her studies.

But on Dec. 12, right as her first semester of graduate school was coming to an end, Nash watched her former team take a beating against a tough Tennessee squad.

At that time in the season, Texas' faults were slowly being exposed, and their original game plan of running-and-gunning was not going as planned against stronger, ranked opponents.

Following the game, head coach Gail Goestenors texted Nash offering her a spot back on the team.

Nash soon realized that her time spent on the hardwood was far from over.

"It never crossed my mind that I would be back on the team," she said.

But before giving Goestenors her final decision, Nash knew she needed to talk to the person who knows her best — her sister Kathleen, who goes by Kat.

"We live together, so we still see each other," Kat said. "But we were just at home, and then the text came in from Coach. I knew she was kind of missing it, and I was like, 'We really need you, but it's your decision. It's a lot of work, but if you want to come back, we could use you.'"

Naturally for Kristen, making her ultimate decision to return came easily, especially after the encouragement that came from her sister.

For the 6-foot-3-inch Kristen, who had not touched a basketball since last March, returning to the run-and-gun game that primarily makes up Texas' offensive strategy was an eye-opener.

But Kristen has been a crucial asset in Texas' second half of the season, as she brings an element of grit and hustle, carrying out much of the dirty work for the squad.

So for Kristen, a vital asset to her squad's recent winning streak, it is still all about doing whatever she can to help.



Andrew Torrey | Daily Texan file photo

Sisters Kat and Kristen Nash take the court for the Longhorn basketball team.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
FEBRUARY 21, 2011

Texas falls to Wildcats in third round

By Dan Hurwitz
Daily Texan Staff

TULSA, Okla. — Cory Joseph usually looks for his teammates to make two or three cuts on an in-bounds pass. With 14 seconds remaining and Texas up two points, Joseph decided he was only going to look for one cut by J'Covan Brown and one cut by Jordan Hamilton before calling time-out.

But when he turned to the official to call time-out, he heard a whistle.

"I called a time-out before he blew the whistle," Joseph said. "So when he blew the whistle, I thought he was going to call a time-out for us. But he called five seconds."

Following the questionable call, Arizona's Derrick Williams made a miraculous shot and drew a foul to regain the lead and beat Texas 70-69 to advance to the Sweet 16 and eliminate Texas from the NCAA Tournament.

Hamilton tried taking a charge on the play but did not get the call.

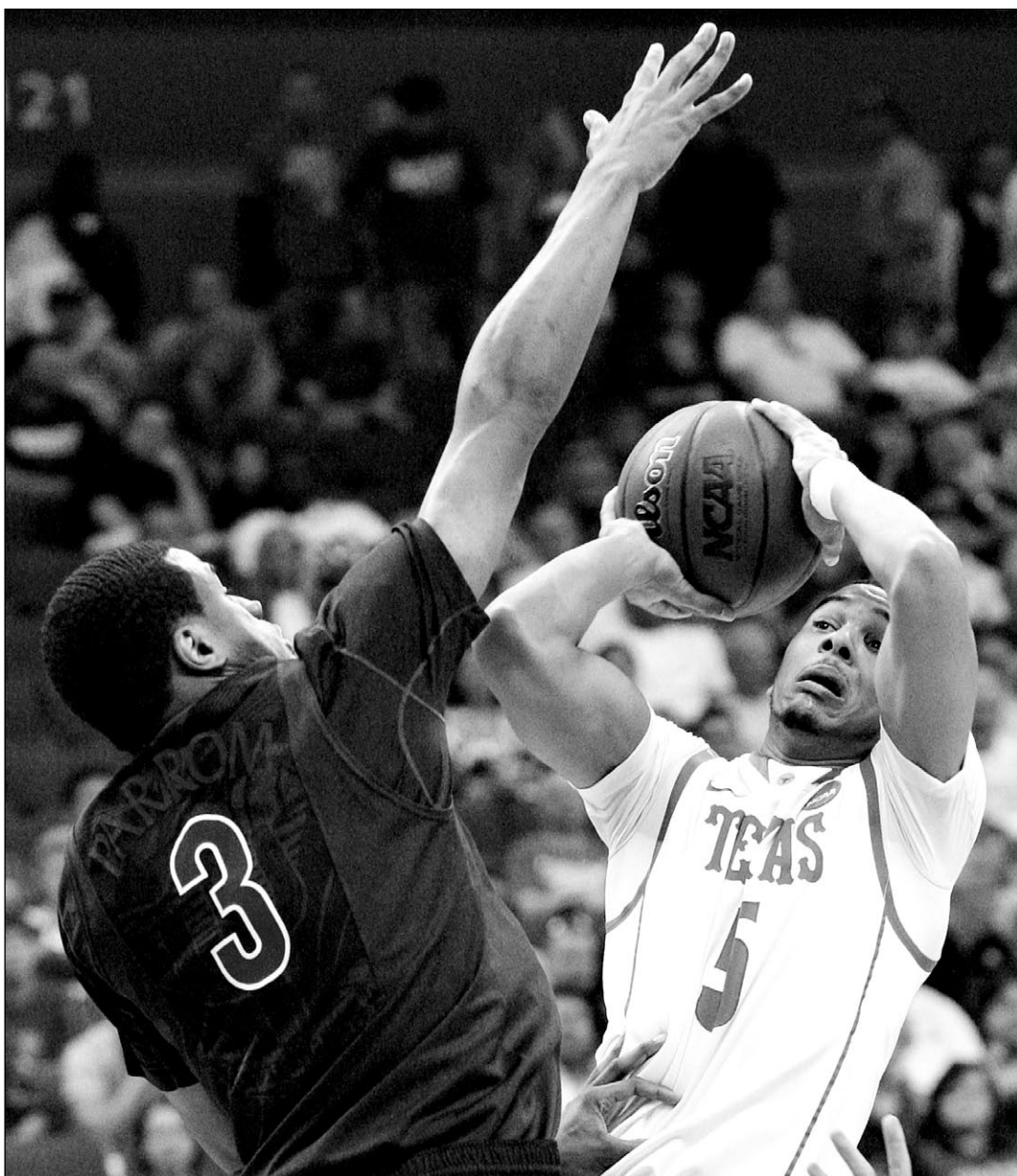
"I didn't even feel contact at all," Hamilton said. "But the ref made up his mind and called a foul. There's nothing we can do about it now."

Texas had one last chance with nine seconds remaining as Brown, who scored Texas' last 11 points — most of which were made at the free-throw line — went to the basket trying to get contact and this time could not get the call. Gary Johnson picked up the loose ball and was unable to get a shot off in the last second as Texas' season came to an end.

A handful of calls that could have gone either way determined the outcome of Sunday's loss.

Texas put itself in the situation as it played one of its worst first halves of the season, trailing by as much as 13. The Longhorns had to play from behind and slowly cut the Arizona lead before regaining it with two minutes left.

Brown took over the second half, scoring 21 of his game-high 23 points. He got Arizona in foul trouble and made all 13 of his free-



Sue Ogrocki | Associated Press

Longhorn freshman point guard Cory Joseph attempts to shoot over Arizona guard Kevin Parrom during the Wildcat's 70-69 win in the third round of the 2011 NCAA tournament.

throw attempts.

Up 69-67 and Joseph under the basket prepared to throw the ball in, Brown made his first cut. Hamilton made his cut towards Joseph.

Referee Richard Cartmell counted off one by one and waved his arm to signal each second. But he blew the whistle before waving his arm to denote the fifth and final second.

"I had the call. I had five seconds

before the kid turned and signaled a time-out," Cartmell said.

Texas coach Rick Barnes said it's a tough game to call, but something that is determined on a count should be easy.

"I don't think anyone should ever make a mistake on that, ever," Barnes said.

Barnes said that he thinks the NCAA should be able to fix tough calls such as the five-second

violation.

The replay can be watched over and over again, but nothing is going to change for the Longhorns who failed to advance to the Sweet 16 for the third straight year. This marks the end of the college careers of Johnson, Dogus Balbay, Jai Lucas and Matt Hill.

"We were in a great position to go to Anaheim," Johnson said. "It sucks."

FORWARD continues from PAGE 9

inherit a rather young but experienced team — one Elliott believes will find its way back to the Final Four once again.

The Longhorns have been bounced from the Final Four in each of the past three years, coming within a point of the National Championship in 2009. This year's group was quite younger than the one that made the semifinals in years past, which is something that excites Elliott looking ahead to next season.

Texas was hampered by injuries much of the season, with Yogi, sophomore outside hitter Bailey Webster and freshman outside hitter Ashley Bannister missing significant time. Their return will deepen an already loaded Longhorns' bench, giving Elliott all the tools he needs to put together another run deep into the NCAA Tournament.

The incoming freshman class is one of the top-rated recruiting classes in the nation, and there

has been a buzz brewing around the Longhorns for quite some time regarding their chances for a title in 2011. Look for Katherine Bell, Haley Eckerman and Madelyn Hutson — a trio of top-rated prospects — to contribute for the Longhorns from the get-go.

With a mix of talent young and old, a well-versed coaching staff and a recently impeccable track record, Texas could be the last team standing in 2011.

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BASEBALL
MARCH 7, 2011



Sophomore outfielder Cohl Walla rounds second base during Texas’ series-clinching win over Stanford. Walla scored one run and tripled.

Longhorns beat Cardinals with pitching

By Trey Scott
Daily Texan Staff

Series finales against top-10 teams are rarely this easy. The sixth-ranked Longhorns (7-4) made a 4-2 win over No. 9 Stanford (6-5) look simple, playing the entirety of the game with a lead and capitalizing on blunders to grab the weekend series from the visiting Cardinals 2-1. Junior lefty Sam Stafford (2-0) breezed through the first half of the game, striking out seven batters in five innings of work. When fatigue and the Stanford batters finally started hitting Stafford — rendering a bases-loaded situation in the top of the sixth — senior reliever Kendal Carrillo offered some help, striking out Stanford’s dangerous Brian

Ragira, who was 3-for-4 on the day, and inducing a groundout to end the inning. “I got into a little bit of trouble in the sixth inning, so it was nice for Kendal to come in and bail me out,” Stafford said. “The pitching hhstaff has never had any questions about our bullpen.” The Texas bullpen came up big towards the end of the game, but its offense set the tone Sunday, plating an early run in the second when sophomore Cohl Walla scored off a wild pitch with two outs. It was a sign of things to come, as Walla would be the recipient of many a Stanford gaffe. With one out in the sixth inning, Walla stroked a lazy fly ball to center field, where it looked like it would be caught for the second out. Stan-

ford’s Jake Stewart lost it in the sun, and the ball fell harmlessly to the turf. The speedy Walla was already on his way to second — a coach’s example to always run out the play, no matter how routine it might be — and turned what looked like harmless fly ball into a triple. From third, Walla would score on a passed ball — another easy run for Texas. “A couple pitches got away from them,” he said. “I just ran down there and beat them to home both times.” A day after a 9-2 Saturday loss to Stanford in which their bats were quiet throughout, the Longhorns made a point to jump out to a quick lead Sunday. “You can see what the four-run lead did, it relaxes the hitters,” said head coach Augie Garrido.

“When you have big leads, that’s when these kids relax and play better defense.” Junior shortstop Brandon Loy was also key to the lead, going 2-for-4 with a fifth-inning RBI. Things would get a bit unnerving in the top of the eighth inning when Stanford pushed two runs across, but freshman Corey Knebel came out of the bullpen and silenced the Cardinals’ comeback hopes. Needing just one more out with a man on first in the top of the ninth, Knebel got Stephen Piscotty to hit a high, lazy fly ball to center field, where it would fall into Walla’s glove for an appropriately easy final out.

SOFTBALL
APRIL 1, 2011

Freshman Fox solidifies spot as second pitcher

ByChris Hummer
Daily Texan Staff

Staring intently from the circle, the Longhorn pitcher nods her head after receiving a signal from catcher Amy Hooks and then starts her wind up with a ferocious look. When most Texas fans hear this description, they immediately think of All-American Blaire Luna, but in this case, it’s freshman Rachel Fox ready to deliver the heat. And deliver she has in her first year. Fox has been just as good as advertised, coming in as a two-time Gatorade Texas softball Player of the Year and helping her high-school team to three state titles. Texas head coach Connie Clark attributes Fox’s success to mental toughness. “She is always ready to go, very assertive and gets herself prepared. She is as solidly mentally as a freshman as anyone we have ever had, I think that’s why she’s had a

lot of success this year,” Clark said. “She doesn’t get consumed with something that just happened — she just wants the ball and is ready to compete on the next pitch.” Fox has been lights-out this year in the circle, holding an 11-1 record, a 1.07 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 11 complete games. These impressive numbers can be attributed to quite a few things — her overall talent or the excellent defense and hitters behind her, but when asked about her success this year, Fox feels one thing is paramount. “I’ve always prided myself in being very mentally tough, and that’s a very big aspect and a very important piece of me because I think if you’re not mentally tough as a pitcher, your team won’t be able to rely on you in key situations,” she said. The team has come to rely on her this year as a second option to Luna. Texas lacked a solid No. 2 last season, but Fox’s arrival allows the team’s everyday starter a degree of rest.

ON THE WEB:
Read the rest of the story at
bit.ly/iNOteg



Rachel Fox, a two-time Gatorade Texas softball Player of the Year, has already garnered an 11-1 record in her first year as a Longhorn.

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April 4, 2011

Hunter Stewart plays a public piano located on the Lamar Pedestrian Bridge on Wednesday morning. Artist Luke Jerram installed 14 pianos all across the city as a part of his “Play Me, I’m Yours” project.



Trent Lesikar
Daily Texan Staff

Art installation places working pianos across Austin

By Amber Genuske
Daily Texan Staff

In the middle of the Lamar Boulevard pedestrian bridge over Lady Bird Lake lives a single piano — its keys painted a deep blue and its body covered in stickers, colorful illustrations and paintings. “Play Me, I’m Yours” is painted in large white block letters across the front of the instrument.

The piano is one of 14 in locations around downtown Austin as a part of “Play Me, I’m Yours,” a public art installation sponsored by the Austin Art Alliance and curated by local artist Johnny Walker, for the entire month of April.

“One thing that’s special that I think the Art Alliance is trying to promote is to bring art into the community,” Walker said. “Art that makes them active and makes them think about who they are and what they are doing and how they live.”

United Kingdom artist Luke Jerram started the project in London in 2008. Since its inception, more than 400 pianos have been installed in places across the globe, including Sydney, New York and Sao Paolo.

“Music is a universal language,” Walker said. “Music touches us and, even without lyrics, music is something that crosses over cultural lines. Music speaks the language that everybody can tune to.”

Meredith Powell, executive director of the alliance, said the organization started working on assembling “Play Me, I’m Yours” in September after the New York project was featured in the New York Times.

After months of fundraising, acquiring public permits and tracking down 14 pianos through Craigslist and donations, the project came to fruition, and the pianos were put in place on April 1. Powell and Walker said before they were even able to bolt the piano down on the Pfluger Bridge, someone sat down and tried their hand at the notes.

“The more barriers that are broken down, the more you understand and appreciate different per-

spectives,” Powell said. “Somebody you would have possibly never connected with or taken the time to get to know or even say a word to or say hello, suddenly you are sharing a piano bench or listening to them play. You are really leaving your mark on the piano. I really do believe the more we are connecting through art, the stronger our community is going to be.”

The 14 pianos are strategically placed around the city, from high foot-traffic areas such as the Lamar Boulevard bike and pedestrian bridge and Lady Bird Lake hike and bike trail, to areas with good acoustics such as the City Hall plaza.

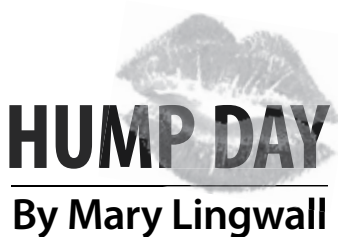
When the weather is bad, there

are volunteer piano “buddies” assigned to protect to each instrument. When the 50- to 100-year-old pianos fall a note flat, four volunteer tuners from the local Piano Technician’s Guild are on call to bring them up to speed.

“It’s interesting to think that this piano was used for many years and then was put into storage, and its days were really over until now,” said Steve Walthall, a member of the guild and UT piano technician. “At least these pianos got pulled out and repaired to the point that they would play and be tuned, and now they are stars. They are being appreciated again, and to me, in some sort of magical way, that’s special.”

September 1, 2010

Issue of taste immaterial for oral sex enthusiasts



By Mary Lingwall

The question was simple: “What does [vagina] taste like to you?” And at first, the anonymous contributors who responded to this question posted at *ask.metafilter.com* were just as blase as the question itself. Some mentioned fish, others musk or zinc, and some even used the forum to mourn the loss of their dearest vagina-having friends.

“It depends. Some good (yeah — I miss her). Mostly a bit sweaty/musky. Even fishy at times. Always 1000 percent more fun after a shower. Probably not the sexiest description; but true to my own experience,” one commenter wrote.

Other contributors mentioned duck sauce, the color red, meat, cheese, the head of a hammer, frying butter, metallic tuna, blood and, my personal favorite, “sweetsalty-muskybloodsweatygoodfruity.”

For centuries, products have been made to make vaginas taste and smell different than their natural state — from douches, washes and wipes that are scented with flower blossoms and baby powder to the “internal vagina mints” that were unveiled a year ago by the company Linger.

After my curiosity led me to conversations with a few vagina lovers around campus, it became obvious that though they definitely notice the unique flavors and smells that could be considered gross if not between the legs of a woman, it doesn’t necessarily mean they don’t like being there.

March 7, 2011

Walking in a knitted wonderland

The trees outside the Blanton Museum of Art got yarn bombed during the weekend.

Local knitter Magda Sayeg teamed up with the Knotty Knitters club and other Austin knitters to transform the courtyard into an explosion of wool and color.

Yarn bombing, also known as knitter bombing and yarn graffiti, describes the tagging of yarn art in public spaces. Started a

few years ago as an underground movement in the U.S., knitting graffiti has made its way to other parts of the world.

Artists, who are sometimes anonymous, knit patterned sleeves and cosies before secretly stitching them onto objects. The colorful, woolen creations have been spotted on lampposts, buses, fences, street signs and abandoned cars.

Sayeg has often been credited as the original yarn graffiti artist. Before Blanton, her previous tag was seen on North Lamar Boulevard last year.

“In this world of technology, overdevelopment, fewer trees and more concrete, it is empowering to be able to beautify your environment,” Sayeg said in an October article of the Guardian.

— Priscilla Totiyapungprasert



Elena Doriur, 3, hides behind one of the knit-covered trees outside the Blanton Museum on Sunday afternoon. Local knitter Magda Sayeg and a host of other knitters wrapped the trees in colored yarn over the weekend.

Lawrence Peart
Daily Texan
file photo

ON THE WEB: For more yarn bombing, watch the video <http://bit.ly/utyarn>

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INCREASING BONE STRENGTH Solution: 7 letters

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E A T O M I S G E T A N H A I
M S I E H I I C N L O S E R S
A N U S O E N E U M I K A E N
O C N A W P M I R L Y B L N E
F U T O P T O O S L A L O I D
S L M I A O H R B H T R I M M
G E U E V E N E O A I R K A C
N N R O E I C E R S L N A T D
I T I B R R T U M A I A G I A
L G O G O I A Y D R P S N V N
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Answer: Micky Ward

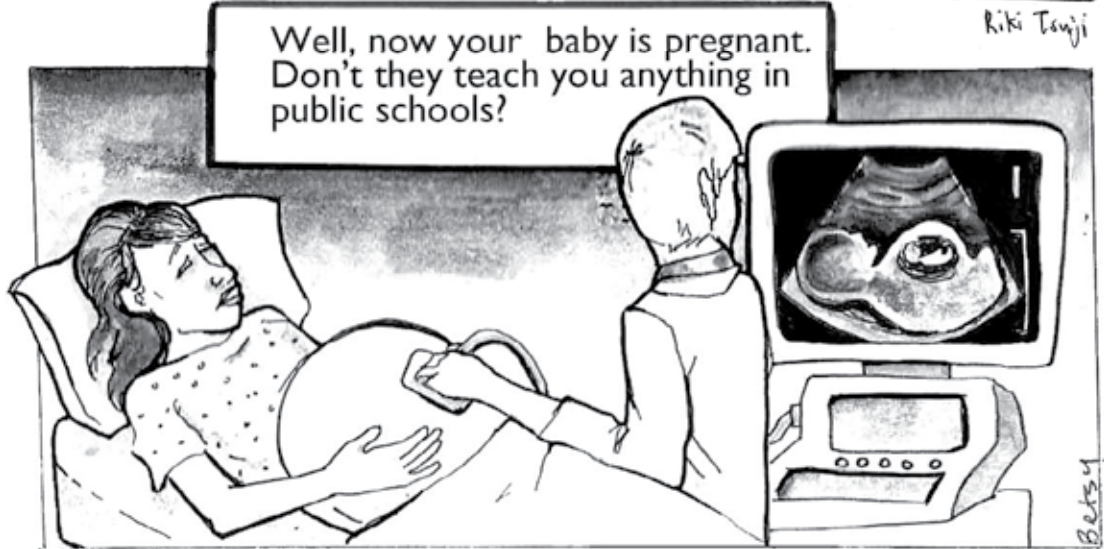
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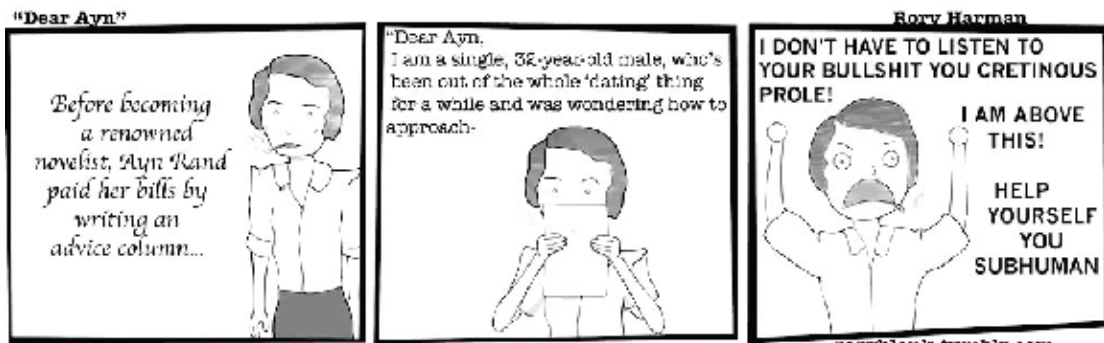
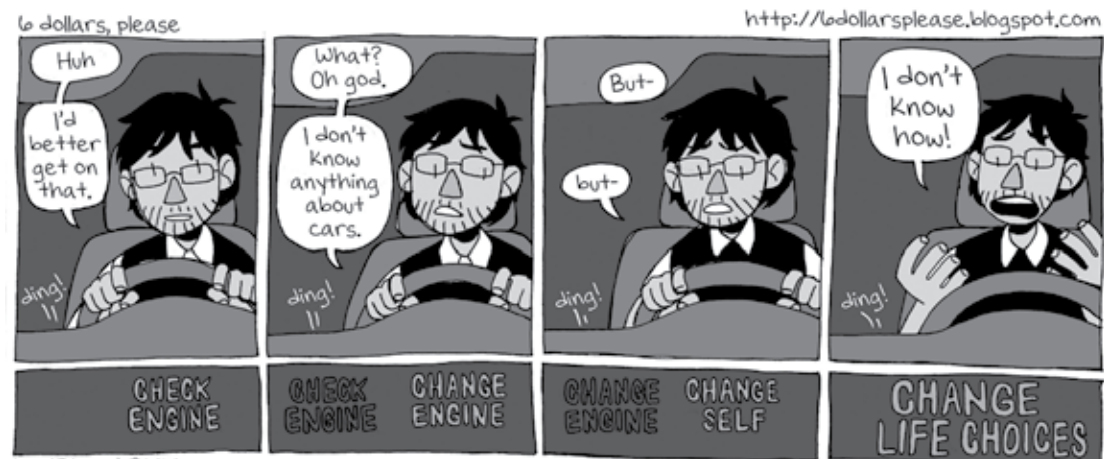


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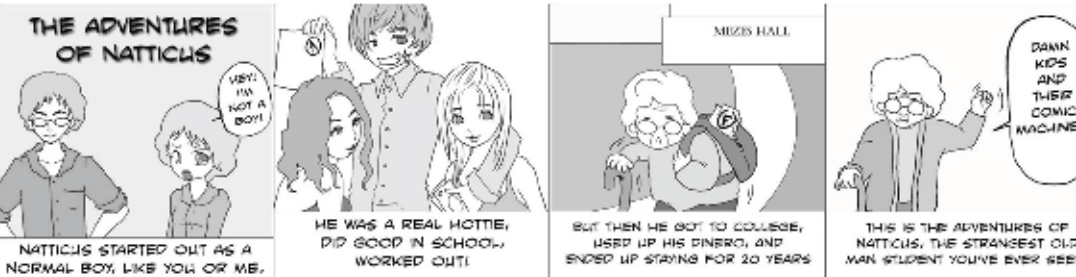
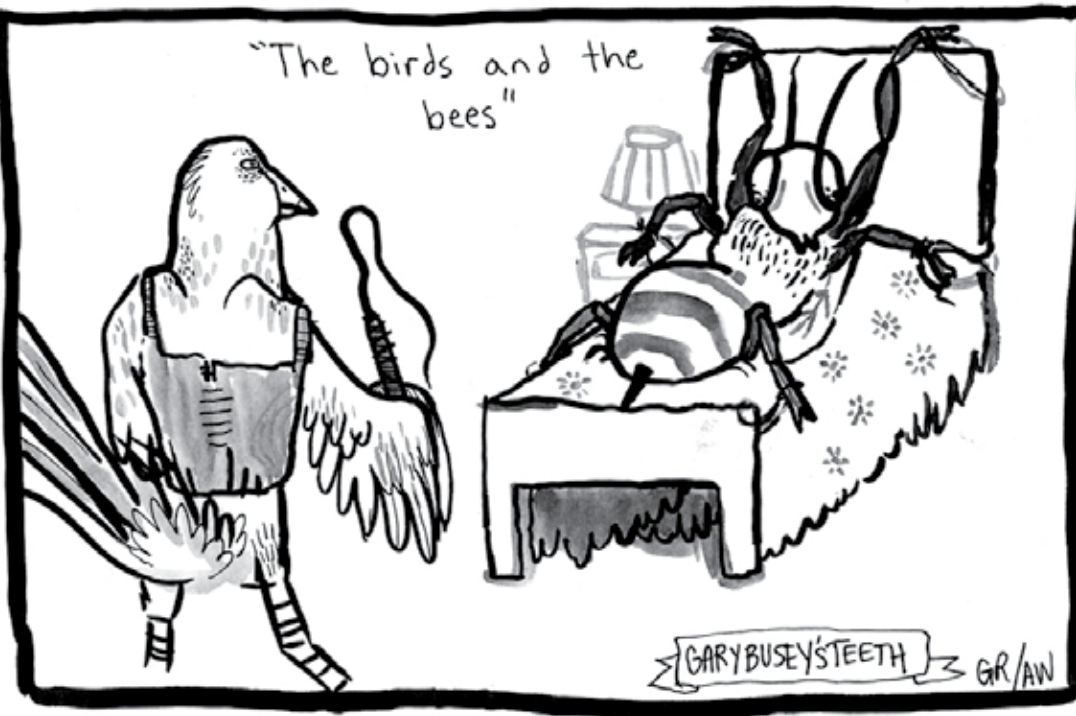
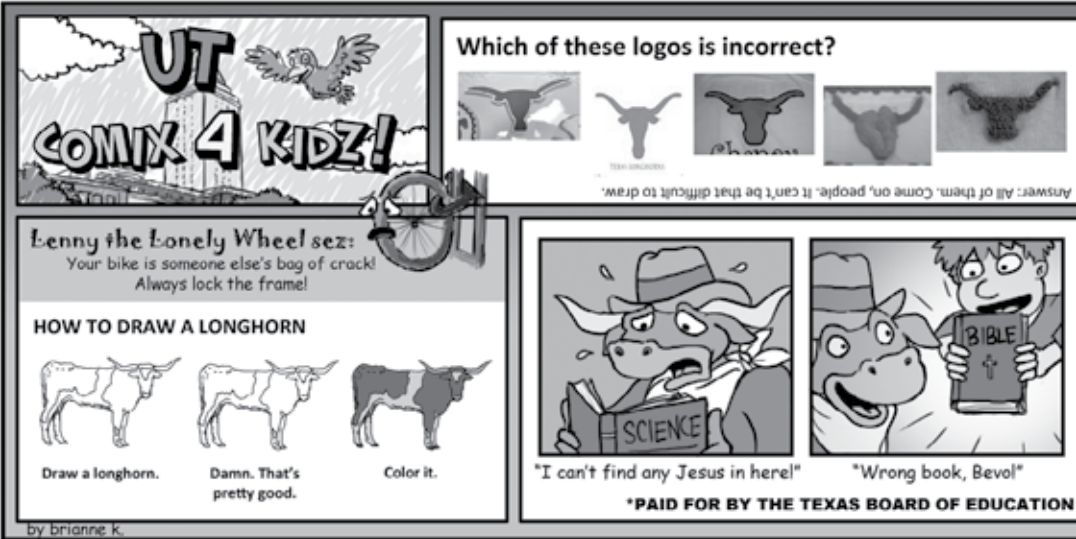
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Constructive Witticism



GOOG COMIX



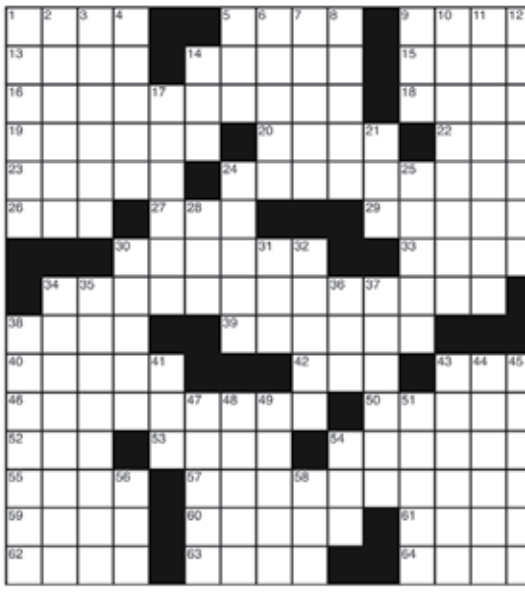
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0406

- Across
- 1 Kept in a cellar, perhaps
 - 5 Droids, iPhones, etc.
 - 9 Non-PC computer
 - 13 amandine
 - 14 Language that gave us "kiwi"
 - 15 Roll up, as a sail
 - 16 Thor, for one
 - 18 Michigan college town
 - 19 Porcupine, e.g.
 - 20 Actresses West and Clarke
 - 22 Hosp. areas
 - 23 Creature on a slide
 - 24 Ones often marrying in a hurry
 - 26 Took by the hand
 - 27 My ____, Vietnam
 - 29 Needing a seat belt extender, say
 - 30 Shore leave taker
 - 33 Collectors' completions
 - 34 Once-common baseball events ... and a hint to 16-, 24-, 46- and 57-Across
 - 38 Chicago exchange, for short
 - 39 Absorb thoroughly
 - 40 Agassi of tennis
 - 42 Beat it
 - 43 It borders two Great Lakes: Abbr.
 - 46 Calypso instrument
 - 50 Place secretly
 - 52 Mangy mutt
 - 53 Seeks redress
 - 54 Like Mrs. Bumstead
 - 55 Yankee nickname starting in 2004
 - 57 It's undeliverable
 - 59 Extend one's tour
 - 60 "The Waste Land" poet
 - 61 Shape (up)
 - 62 Piedmont city
 - 63 Cold war-era lands: Abbr.
 - 64 Not taken in by
- Down
- 1 Kind of projection
 - 2 "Beat it!"
 - 3 Got away from
 - 4 Summer Triangle star
 - 5 Links figure
 - 6 Set of beliefs
 - 7 Like crowds in the heat of a match
 - 8 45 half
 - 9 "___" tree falls
 - 10 Yellowstone forager
 - 11 Pair on a couch
 - 12 Business and tourist
 - 14 Shook hands, say
 - 17 Paternity testing locale
 - 21 B.O. sign
 - 24 Bits of cunning
 - 25 "Peer Gynt" playwright
 - 28 Have a bug
 - 30 A capital of Bolivia

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ELK	PUB	PEDICAB	
VIE	SNL	INACOMA	
INN	SLIPCOVERED		
TENSTONE	ERASE		
ENYA	AIRKISS		
RUED	FONT	BAM	
ATODDS	ECCE	RBI	
RIGID	CHAW	ION	
EVE	ITAT	AGAVE	
NOR	EARP	IRONED	
ASS	FOCI	STOW	
RISOTTO	DIMS		
ELVIS	COLESLAW		
TAICHICHUAN	SUE		
ALLHERE	GTO	ODE	
LATERAL	HES	NET	



- Puzzle by Gareth Bain
- 31 "Caught you!"
 - 32 Queendom, e.g.
 - 34 Stereotypical glass fillers
 - 35 Not have a home-cooked meal, maybe
 - 36 Wanted-poster abbr.
 - 37 Part of a golf ball
 - 38 It might run in the rain
 - 41 Golf's Big Easy
 - 43 Far from demure
 - 44 Set right
 - 45 Word on many LPs
 - 47 Fancy dressers
 - 48 Walks like a tosspot
 - 49 Carrier renamed in 1997
 - 51 Pick 6, e.g.
 - 54 Short-order lunch
 - 56 Print resolution meas.
 - 58 Galas

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September 1, 2010



Courtesy of Monotonix

Israeli band discusses wild performances



MUSIC MONDAY

By Francisco Marin

Israel might seem like an unlikely place for one of the world's wildest rock bands to get its start, but once you consider that Tel Aviv, birthplace of Monotonix, is essentially the Los Angeles of the Middle East, it might not seem as surprising.

At least that's how guitarist Yonatan Gat characterizes life in Jaffa, the ancient port city that Tel Aviv sprouted from: a vibrant community where artists are allowed to flourish regardless of their political or religious affiliations. Perhaps it was that atmosphere of free expression that contributed to his band's awe-inspiring live performances.

Monotonix shows are never anything short of legendary and mind-blowing. During previous performances in Austin, it was not uncommon to see the group tossing around within the crowd with wild abandon, asking fans to lift the drum kit — and drummer Haggai Fershtman himself — into the air during the middle of the song. Trash cans are thrown around, people scream the chorus lines along with the band in unison, and there is a pervading odor of sweat, cigarette smoke and spilled beer. But as intimidating as a show like this can get, one thing remains constant: the audience's sheer joy of experiencing it all.

The Daily Texan corresponded with Monotonix guitarist Yonatan Gat via e-mail about the band's raucous live shows, being banned from playing in Tel Aviv and living

life in Jaffa.

DT: Why exactly have you been banned from so many venues in Tel Aviv? It doesn't seem like your music is too political, but maybe people think your shows are politically charged because of how aggressive the shows can get?

YG: There was nothing political about people stopping our shows in Tel Aviv. People are free to express themselves politically as they please; there are a lot of extreme left-wing artists, and a few on the right. Our shows were stopped just because people didn't really know how to take them and what was going on. We were loud, so neighbors made noise complaints; we moved around and climbed shit a lot, so venue owners got worried and pulled the plug.

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THIRSTY

continues from PAGE 16

Hemingway allegedly loved the slightly bitter liqueur, according to Baker, and drinks such as the Hemingway Daiquiri, Death in the Gulf Stream and mojito all use a bit of lime to compound the bitterness. So to send him off, a round of farewells was whipped up in the “muggy, half-breathless night” to properly prepare the two for their long flights to New York and Spain.

Taking its name directly from “Death in the Afternoon,” Hemingway’s meditation on bullfighting, this cocktail replaced the typical absinthe drips’ sugar with champagne because of his alleged diabetes.

The only downside is that the bubbles can create a sweetened absinthe soda. But if you’re just looking for a quick fix, then grab some cheap Andre champagne and some absinthe from Spec’s, Twin Liquors or any number of online liquor retailers. However, if you really want to live it up, you might want to find out which champagne goes well with which absinthe, since Hemingway wasn’t particularly specific on the liquor.

“DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON”

Ingredients

1 oz. of absinthe
3 oz. of champagne

Directions

- Mix and enjoy!

“A FAREWELL TO HEMINGWAY”

Ingredients

0.25 oz of cherry or raspberry syrup (or a 0.25 pony)
2.25 oz of Kirsch (or 1.5 jiggers)
juice of 1 lime

Directions

- Shake and pour with ice into a Collins glass
- fill the rest with club soda

SIGNS

continues from PAGE 16

with his one-of-a-kind neon and vintage signs.

Voyles has made at least 500 signs with The Neon Jungle, the company he named after what his mother used to call Burnet Road in the mid-1950s, when it had raunchy neon lights. Shops with Voyles’ signs include Yard Dog, Stella Blue, Woodland, Maya Star, Hotel San Jose and his wife’s boutique, Blackmail.

A Yale University English grad, Voyles said writing made him to go out and search for stories. After attending college and dropping out of three law schools, Voyles went on the road, where his obsession with Americana took off.

He was driving in the middle of nowhere, north of the Texas border in New Mexico in March 1989 when he passed a little junk store, with things strewn across the desert, most half-covered in sand. He saw a half-buried sign with holes punched through the letters where light bulbs used to shine. It said “lunch,” and he bought it for \$20.

“It’s been lying on the desert floor

for I don’t know how many years,” he said. “It was almost a hundred years old then when I bought it.”

While the lunch sign is by far one of the oldest he owns, the availability of the signs is much more important than the aesthetics, he said. Voyles realized the vintage signs were not as heavy or difficult to dismantle as he thought. And so he wanted more. He went out on the road again, salvaging signs from off the side of the road and those still on their original posts, often learning lessons the hard way.

Some of Voyles’ comical stories of near-death experiences while sign collecting include a face-to-face encounter with a scared owl and dropping and rolling on the desert floor after his shirt caught fire from a metal cutter.

Voyles makes signs using a process almost identical to that of 100 years ago. Using solely hand tools and no electric machinery, he cuts the steel frame, the sheet metal can that shapes the frame and the same tube supporters used in the 1920s.

March 4, 2011



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan Staff

The 76-year-old monk Venerable Bancha Temprom eats his only large meal of the day before noon at Wat Buddhnanachat, a Thai Theravada Buddhist temple in Del Valle. The Thai-born head monk, with a sense of humor and affinity for digital cameras, has been a monk for 37 years.

Monks foster prayer, community at temple

Editor’s note: Portions of this interview were translated from Thai.

By Priscilla Totiyapungprasert
Daily Texan Staff

The 76-year-old head monk Venerable Bancha Temprom sits cross-legged on a golden-colored mat, eyes closed as he chants mantras. About 20 people in prayer, mostly Thai and mostly women, sit before him repeating the mantras. A couple new to the scene watches curiously, but it isn’t the first and probably won’t be the last intrigued couple to come wandering into the prayer room.

It’s Sunday at Wat Buddhnanachat, a Thai Theravada Buddhist temple in Del Valle just south of Austin. The doors to the yellow building remain open any day, any time of the week. The monks don’t turn people

away. Even abandoned dogs have a place to go, lounging outside.

The “wat,” which means temple in Thai, is the closest of its kind to Austin that serves local Thai people. Laotians make up the next highest nationality of attendants.

“This is the only place Thai people can get together,” said Penny Sanghatai, an attendee of the temple. “It’s the center of the community.”

She comes almost every week to do yard work at the temple, bring lunch to the monks and help new visitors, regardless of ethnicity, familiarize themselves.

As she stands in the temple kitchen chopping a watermelon she’s sharing for lunch, Sanghatai’s voice can be heard from the dining area. When Temprom and a younger monk, Venerable Raem Poonnon-gwaeng, walks by, she pauses in her

conversation to give them a jubilant greeting and “wai” — the Thai custom of greeting people with a small head bow and hands pressed together prayer-style.

Temprom has been head monk at the temple since it was established in April 1986. Wearing a mustard yellow robe draped around him, he walks with a slow gait and has the tan skin of a man who has spent many years in the sun.

Respectable with “Mad Men”-style glasses that would be considered vintage vogue now, Temprom smiles with easy grins and laughs with a gravelly but friendly lilt. He slips jokes in that could be missed and has an affinity for taking snapshots on a digital point-and-shoot camera.

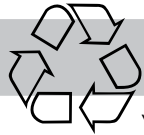
A faded tattoo of hardly distinguishable writing can be seen on his

right bicep — a monk master gave it to him as a symbol of protection and respect to Buddha when Temprom was 10 years old.

He is one of five monks who currently reside there. Born right before the onset of World War II in the rural town of Samut Songkhram near Bangkok, Temprom spent his childhood as a temple boy quietly ignoring the sounds of bombs.

“Sometimes, I would go to the river, and I would see dead bodies floating by,” Temprom recalled. “The adults pulled us away because they didn’t want us to see. I was young then, and I didn’t understand.”

After years of shopkeeping, a marriage, the birth of his son and a divorce, it wasn’t until he was 39 that Temprom decided to become a monk. He wanted to discover what he describes as the essential in life.



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JANUARY 28, 2011



Reshma Kirpalani | Daily Texan Staff

Austin sign maker and artist Evan Voyles fixes the Wahoo's Fish Taco sign on South Congress Avenue.

Sign of the Times

By Julie Rene Tran

When local sign maker and artist Evan Voyles was a boy, his favorite sign was the Terminix bug. Perched on a pole at the intersection of 12th Street and Lamar Boulevard, the bug fascinated Voyles with its big, glowing lightbulb eyes, metal antenna and huge wings.

"It would turn, and it had an up lit in that kind of nemesis way," Voyles said.

Voyles, 52, said he remembers getting pizza from across the street with his father, and then asking his dad to drive their Peugeot 404 around the block again and again to look at the life-sized insect. With the sunroof open, the bug looked like it was out to get them — and that was thrilling, he said.

That sort of thrill is what Voyles said he hopes to give Austinites as they drive or walk down South Congress Avenue. From the Homeslice girl throwing pizza dough in the air to the cowboy roping while riding a rabbit on top of Uncommon Objects, Voyles amplifies the quirks and spectacles of South Congress

SIGNS continues on PAGE 15

NOVEMBER 11, 2010

Famous author inspires lesser-known cocktails



By Gerald Rich

There are writers who drank, and there was Ernest Hemingway — an author who continues to influence countless writers. His stripped down, journalistic style is like cubism is to Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque; he owned it, and before he succumbed to extreme alcoholism, he managed to produce an extensive canon.

"Don't you drink?" asked Hemingway in a letter to fellow writer Ivan Kashkin. "I have drunk since I was 15 and few things have given me more pleasure. When you work hard all day with your head and know you must work again the next day what else can change your ideas and make them run on a different plane like whisky? ... The only time it isn't good for you is when you write or when you fight. You have to do that cold."

Of course many people know Hemingway loved mojitos and his stronger version of a daiquiri, but those weren't his only drinks of choice. Figuring out all of them would be a massive scholarly undertaking, but here are two lesser known cocktails that illuminate more of the author's life.

Hemingway's friend and cocktail journalist Charles Baker starts off this recipe by saying it has "no reason" relative to other allegedly medicinal mixtures. The farewell was simply made for Hemingway and their other friend, bullfighter Sidney Franklin, the night before they went off to loyalist Spain where he would go on to write about the Spanish Civil War.

Don't worry if you're not familiar with or haven't even heard of kirsch, or kirschwasser as it's known in Germany, because it's more easily known as a fruit brandy. A brandy will typically use wine, and then distill it by boiling it and capturing the condensed alcohol.

THIRSTY continues on PAGE 15



Kiersten Marian | Daily Texan Staff

Thirsty Thursday explores the different alcoholic beverages that were popular in Hemingway's life and books.

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